

# Office of the Attorney General *the KENTUCKY SENIOR SNOOPER*

Vol. 1, Edition 1

Office of Senior Protection

12/1/98

## Office of Senior Protection

Attorney General Ben Chandler created the Office of Senior Protection on July 16, 1998. This office is designed to coordinate the office's efforts and make it easier for seniors to get the help and information they need to make sure their rights are protected.

This new office will focus on crime prevention relating to the state's senior citizen population in coordination with other offices within the Attorney General's Office and other state agencies in a continuous effort to improve the delivery of crime prevention information. The primary mission of this office is:

- C continually reinforce the message of crime prevention to Kentucky's senior citizens population;
- C provide methods by which senior citizens can be alerted to consumer fraud, con games, and other criminal acts, so they can avoid being victimized themselves and report suspicious activities to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

## Seniors Crime College



Seniors Crime College is a program offered by the Attorney General's Office in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to educate senior citizens on crime prevention. The training provided through the Seniors Crime College is to help stop physical and financial crimes against the senior citizens of Kentucky.

The theme of the Seniors Crime college is **AAware, Avoid, Alert@**. Attorney General Ben Chandler said **A**the goal of our Crime College is to make seniors aware of the frauds against them and teach them how to avoid becoming a victim. In addition, we want seniors to alert the proper law enforcement official so that the criminals can be caught before they get to their next potential victim. @

As of this printing there have been 17 presentations of the Seniors Crime College with 7 more already planned. Attendance has averaged approximately 75, with well over 100 seniors in attendance at Prestonsburg, Ashland, Elizabethtown,

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Owensboro and Bowling Green. Many fine presentations by County Sheriffs, local Police and the Kentucky State Police have provided valuable information to seniors across the state. Lori Farris of the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney Generals Office said, "We are very pleased with the response we have received and hope attendance will continue to grow so that more of Kentucky's seniors get an opportunity to learn how to avoid being taken advantage of."

If you would like to attend a Senior Crime College, or have one put on for your local or civic organization, call the Attorney General's Office of Senior Protection



at (502) 696-5610.

## Senior Sleuth

The Attorney General has decided to take a proactive approach to apprehend the criminals before they are well established in a new area. Senior Sleuths provide law enforcement extra eyes and ears. Our primary objective is to convince every financial criminal who even thinks about committing a crime in the State of Kentucky, that the odds of getting caught early in the venture are much too great and not worth the risks.

This is your opportunity to provide assistance by helping all citizens to protect themselves.

Numerous people from all across Kentucky are applying to become Senior Sleuths. These individuals will have an opportunity to work more closely with law enforcement on special projects related to consumer frauds.

The State of Florida already has an active Senior Sleuth program and Mr. Shelley Feldman has provided Kentucky with valuable information in getting their program started.

If you have attended the Attorney General's Seniors Crime College and are interested in helping prevent crime, you can become a Senior Sleuth. Just contact the Office of Senior Protection at (502) 696-5610 for further details.

## Bankers Against Financial Exploitation

The Attorney General and the Kentucky Bankers Association are teaming up to help seniors.

In a special program developed for bank employees, members of the Attorney General's Office of Senior Protection are training bankers across the state how to recognize telltale signs of financial abuse of their senior customers.

In September, Jeff Lagrew of the Office of Senior Protection spoke at a KBA Security Seminar in Lexington and has also helped present five other training seminars across the state. In April senior protection will be the focus of KBA's Certified Teller Training series where up to 1,000 bank tellers from across the state will receive information on crimes against seniors. Those tellers completing the course will receive a silver ribbon and desk marker to indicate their specialized training.

In addition, the Office of Senior Protection is putting on mini Senior Crime Colleges for bank customers when requested. If you would like your bank to have a crime prevention seminar tell them to call the Office of Senior Protection at (502) 696-5610.

## Calendar of Events

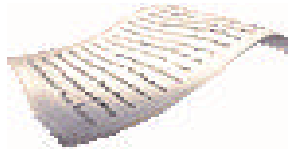
12-8-98	Senior Advisory Council Meeting	
12-10-98	Seniors Crime College	Greenup
3-9-99	Seniors Crime College	Louisville
3-10-99	Seniors Crime College	Carrollton
3-11-99	Seniors Crime College	Frankfort
3-16-99	Seniors Crime College	Florence
3-17-99	Seniors Crime College	Lexington
3-18-99	Seniors Crime College	Cynthiana
3-24-99	Seniors Crime College	Harrodsburg

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE EVENTS, CALL (502) 696-5610.

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Attorney General wishes to express a special thank you to the Office of Aging, the Area Development Districts, and the AARP for their cooperation and support with the Seniors Crime Colleges.

### *The Kentucky Senior Snooper Newsletter*



This newsletter is provided for the benefit of Senior Citizens for informational purposes only and will be published quarterly. Anyone wanting to share [Anewsworthy@news](mailto:Anewsworthy@news) for senior citizens can do so by submitting their articles to: **The Office of the Attorney General, Office of Senior Protection, 700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.**

## WHAT IS *TRIAD*®?

TRIAD is cooperation between law enforcement agencies and senior citizens.

TRIAD strives to reduce criminal victimization of older persons.

TRIAD assesses the needs and concerns of older citizens.

TRIAD leads to a broad dialogue on safety and security issues.

TRIAD is the link with elderly members of the community.

TRIAD combines common sense and imagination.

TRIAD is simple and it works.

Contact your local Sheriff's office, Police Department or the Attorney General's Office of Senior Protection for information in establishing or joining a TRIAD in your community.

## GIVE, BUT GIVE WISELY!

**THE CHARITABLE GIVING SEASON IS HERE. FORTY PERCENT OF ALL CHARITABLE DOLLARS ARE COLLECTED DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR. IF YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE, GIVE WISELY BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:**

- 1. ASK THE SOLICITOR IF HE IS PAID OR IF HE IS A VOLUNTEER. (PAID SOLICITORS ARE PAID OUT OF THE DONATIONS COLLECTED THEREFOR REDUCING THE AMOUNT WHICH ACTUALLY GETS TO THE CHARITY).**
- 2. ASK THE SOLICITOR IF HE IS REGISTERED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.**
- 3. ALWAYS ASK WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR DOLLAR ACTUALLY IS GIVEN TO THE CHARITY. (BE WARY OF HIGH PERCENTAGES. YOU MAY CALL THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR VERIFICATION OF THE PERCENTAGE).**
- 4. RESEARCH YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY BEFORE DONATING. ASK FOR WRITTEN MATERIAL ON HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT AND WHAT PERCENTAGE IS SPENT ON THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE. YOU MAY CALL THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU TO INQUIRE ABOUT MOST NATIONAL CHARITIES: 1-800-866-6668 OR 1-800-388-2222.**
- 5. DO NOT DONATE TO EVERY CHARITY THAT APPROACHES YOU. MAKE A BUDGET FOR YOURSELF AND STICK TO IT.**
- 6. YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER DONATING YOUR CHARITABLE DOLLARS DIRECTLY TO A LOCAL ORGANIZATION SO THAT YOU CAN BE ASSURED YOUR MONEY WILL BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE INTENDED.**

**TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS CHARITABLE ACTIVITY, CALL THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AT**

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